

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A conjugate comprising two polypeptides ~~with a mutual affinity~~, one polypeptide being a cytokine receptor, or subunit thereof, and the other polypeptide being a cytokine, or subunit thereof, ~~as ligand and~~ that binds to said cytokine receptor, wherein the polypeptides ~~being~~ are linked ~~with~~ to each other via a polypeptide linker.

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Claim 2. (Previously Presented) The conjugate according to claim 1, wherein the receptor is a subunit of a cytokine receptor and binds to said ligand.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The conjugate according to claim 1, wherein the cytokine is a subunit of a cytokine and binds to said receptor.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The conjugate according to claim 1, wherein the cytokine receptor is an IL-6 receptor and the cytokine is an I-6.

Claim 5. (Withdrawn) The conjugate according to claim 1, wherein the cytokine receptor is a CNTF receptor and the cytokine is a CNTF.

Claim 6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) DNA coding for the conjugate according to claim 1 6.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) An expression plasmid comprising the DNA according to claim 7.

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Claim 9. (Previously Presented) A transformant containing the expression plasmid according to claim 8.

Claim 10. (Canceled)

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) A method for influencing the interaction between proteins comprising incubating the conjugate according to claims 1, 2, 3 or 4 to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ or the expression plasmid according to claim 8 with isolated cells and determining said interaction.

31 12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the cells
are stem cells.
